

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

ALI A. HARRISON-EL,	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-CV-4364
	:	
1 JOHN DOE OFFICER, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	
Defendants.	:	

ORDER

AND NOW, this 21st day of February, 2024, upon consideration of Plaintiff Ali A. Harrison-El's Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1) and *pro se* Complaint (ECF No. 2), **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

1. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to **AMEND** the docket to reflect that Harrison-El is currently housed at SCI Smithfield.
2. Leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* is **GRANTED**.
3. Ali A. Harrison-El, #QQ1519, shall pay the full filing fee of \$350 in installments, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b), regardless of the outcome of this case. The Court directs the Superintendent of SCI Smithfield or other appropriate official to assess an initial filing fee of 20% of the greater of (a) the average monthly deposits to Harrison-El's inmate account; or (b) the average monthly balance in Harrison-El's inmate account for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of this case. The Superintendent or other appropriate official shall calculate, collect, and forward the initial payment assessed pursuant to this Order to the Court with a reference to the docket number for this case. In each succeeding month when the amount in Harrison-El's inmate trust fund account exceeds \$10.00, the Superintendent or other appropriate official shall forward payments to the Clerk of Court equaling 20% of the preceding month's income credited to Harrison-El's inmate account until the fees are paid. Each payment shall refer to the docket number for this case.

4. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to **SEND** a copy of this Order to the Superintendent of SCI Smithfield.

5. The Complaint is **DEEMED** filed.

6. The Complaint is **DISMISSED IN PART** for failure to state a claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) for the reasons stated in the Court's Memorandum as follows:

- a. Harrison-El's claims against the Falls Township Police Department are **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to **TERMINATE** the Falls Township Police Department as a Defendant.
- b. Harrison-El's claim seeking release from prison and dismissal of the criminal charges against him are **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** to him proceeding on a petition for a writ of *habeas corpus*.
- c. Harrison-El's malicious prosecution claim is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. Harrison-El may reassert this claim in a new civil action in the event the pending criminal charges ultimately terminate in his favor.
- d. Harrison-El's excessive force and official capacity claims are **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. He will be granted leave to amend these claims.

7. Harrison-El may file an amended complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order addressing his excessive force and official capacity claims only. Any amended complaint must identify all defendants in the caption of the amended complaint in addition to identifying them in the body of the amended complaint and shall state the basis for Harrison-El's claims against each defendant. The amended complaint must also provide as much identifying information for the defendants as possible. Harrison-El may refer to a defendant by last name only if that is the only identifying information possessed. If Harrison-El wishes to name individuals for whom he does not have any identifying information, he may refer to those

individuals as John Doe #1, John Doe #2, etc.¹ The amended complaint shall be a complete document that does not rely on the initial Complaint or other papers filed in this case to state a claim. When drafting his amended complaint, Harrison-El should be mindful of the Court's reasons for dismissing the claims in his initial Complaint as explained in the Court's Memorandum. Upon the filing of an amended complaint, the Clerk shall not make service until so **ORDERED** by the Court.

8. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to send Harrison-El a blank copy of the Court's form complaint for a prisoner filing a civil rights action bearing the above civil action number. Harrison-El may use this form to file his amended complaint if he chooses to do so.

9. If Harrison-El does not wish to amend his Complaint and instead intends to stand on his Complaint as originally pled, he may file a notice with the Court within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order stating that intent, at which time the Court will issue a final order dismissing Harrison-El's excessive force and official capacity claims. Any such notice should be titled "Notice to Stand on Complaint," and shall include the civil action number for this case. *See Weber v. McGrogan*, 939 F.3d 232 (3d Cir. 2019) ("If the plaintiff does not desire to amend, he may file an appropriate notice with the district court asserting his intent to stand on the complaint, at which time an order to dismiss the action would be appropriate." (quoting *Borelli v. City of Reading*, 532 F.2d 950, 951 n.1 (3d Cir. 1976))); *In re Westinghouse Sec. Litig.*, 90 F.3d 696, 703–04 (3d Cir. 1996) (holding "that the district court did not abuse its discretion when it dismissed with prejudice the otherwise viable claims . . . following plaintiffs' decision not to replead those claims" when the district court "expressly warned plaintiffs that failure to replead the remaining claims . . . would result in the dismissal of those claims").

¹ Without the name of at least one individual or entity, however, the Court may be unable to direct service of any amended complaint that Harrison-El may file.

10. If Harrison-El fails to file any response to this Order, the Court will conclude that Harrison-El intends to stand on his Complaint and will issue a final order dismissing his excessive force and official capacity claims.² *See Weber*, 939 F.3d at 239-40 (explaining that a plaintiff's intent to stand on his complaint may be inferred from inaction after issuance of an order directing him to take action to cure a defective complaint).

11. Any other claims Harrison-El seeks to pursue under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, except for his excessive force and official capacity claims against Defendants Falls Township Police Officers Tanner and "John Doe" are **STAYED**, pursuant to the abstention doctrine of *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37 (1971), until Harrison-El informs the Court that his state court criminal case, *Commonwealth v. Harrison-El*, CP-09-CR-5770-2023 (C.P. Bucks), has been resolved. Following resolution of his criminal case, Harrison-El may file a motion to reassert those claims.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ John M. Gallagher

JOHN M. GALLAGHER

United States District Court Judge

² The six-factor test announced in *Poulis v. State Farm Fire & Casualty Co.*, 747 F.2d 863 (3d Cir. 1984), is inapplicable to dismissal orders based on a plaintiff's intention to stand on her complaint. *See Weber*, 939 F.3d at 241 & n.11 (treating the "stand on the complaint" doctrine as distinct from dismissals under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to comply with a court order, which require assessment of the *Poulis* factors); *see also Elansari v. Altria*, 799 F. App'x 107, 108 n.1 (3d Cir. 2020) (*per curiam*). Indeed, an analysis under *Poulis* is not required when a plaintiff willfully abandons the case or makes adjudication impossible, as would be the case when a plaintiff opts not to amend her complaint, leaving the case without an operative pleading. *See Dickens v. Danberg*, 700 F. App'x 116, 118 (3d Cir. 2017) (*per curiam*) ("Where a plaintiff's conduct clearly indicates that he willfully intends to abandon the case, or where the plaintiff's behavior is so contumacious as to make adjudication of the case impossible, a balancing of the *Poulis* factors is not necessary."); *Baker v. Accounts Receivables Mgmt., Inc.*, 292 F.R.D. 171, 175 (D.N.J. 2013) ("[T]he Court need not engage in an analysis of the six *Poulis* factors in cases where a party willfully abandons her case or otherwise makes adjudication of the matter impossible." (citing cases)).